

## Message Text

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15  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

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AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
USMISSION NATO PRIORITY  
USNMR SHAPE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 6151

SHAPE FOR NAPO PROJECT OFFICE

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: NATO, OCON, AWACS, MILI, NO  
SUBJECT: NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT WILL MOVE TOWARD PARTICIPATION IN  
AWACS AT DPC MEETING

REFS: (A) OSLO 6150, (B) OSLO 5697, (C) STATE 265681, (D) OSLO 3723,  
(E) OSLO 3308 (F) OSLO 2861 (GXL OSLO 2842), (H) OSLO 0336

SUMMARY: AT UPCOMING DEFENSE PLANNING COMMITTEE (DPC) MEETING  
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NORWEGIANS PLAN TO STATE THEY HAVE FORMALLY ENDORSED AWACS CONCEPT

AND ARE NOW POSITIVELY CONSIDERING PARTICIPATION IN THE NATO AEW PROGRAM. GOVERNMENT'S FINAL DECISION ON PARTICIPATION WILL COME AT JUNE, 1977 DPC MEETING AND WILL BE MADE IN LIGHT OF THE REPORT OF GOVERNMENT'S HIGH-LEVEL DEFENSE REVIEW COMMISSION, WHICH IS DUE THIS SPRING. I BELIEVE THIS IS IMPORTANT POSITIVE STEP TOWARD EVENTUAL NORWEGIAN PARTICIPATION IN AWACS. END SUMMARY.

1. KNOWING OUR INTEREST IN SUBJECT, MOD SECRETARY GENERAL CASPAR STEPHANSEN INFORMED POLCOUNS DEC 3 THAT AT UPCOMING NATO DPC MINISTERIAL MEETING NORWEGIAN DEFENSE MINISTER HANSEN WILL STATE THAT NORWAY SUPPORTS THE VIEW THAT A NATO AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING FORCE WOULD ADD SIGNIFICANTLY TO THE DEFENSIVE CAPABILITY OF THE ALLIANCE AS AN ANSWER TO THE EMERGING SOVIET AIR THREAT, PARTICULARLY AT LOW LEVELS, AND AS AN EFFECTIVE INSTRUMENT IN RESPECT TO SOVIET NAVAL THREAT.

2. THE DEFENSE MINISTER WILL INDICATE NORWAY GENERALLY SUPPORTS AND IS POSITIVELY CONSIDERING PARTICIPATION IN A JOINT NATO AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING PROJECT ON THE BASIS OF THE COST-SHARING FORMULA WHICH HAS BEEN CIRCULATED BY NATO ASYG LABERGE. DUE TO THE MANY AND HEAVY PROCUREMENT PROGRAMS TO WHICH NORWAY IS COMMITTED, HOWEVER, PARTICULARLY THE F-16 AND ROLAND II, NORWAY HAS TO RESERVE IT POSITION WITH RESPECT TO THE TIME PHASING OF ITS FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION UNTIL IT TAKES THE FINAL DECISION ON THE PROJECT WHEN THE DPC MEETS AGAIN IN JUNE, 1977. AT THAT TIME NORWAY SHALL HAVE HAD A CHANCE TO APPRAISE THE PROJECT AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF THE REPORT FROM THE NORWEGIAN DEFENSEALYNIEW COMMISSION. THAT REPORT IS EXPECTED IN THE SPRING OF 1977.

3. HANSEN WILL ALSO INDICATE THAT IN NORWEGIAN VIEW AWACS CANNOT REPLACE THE NADGE GROUND ENVIRONMENT SYSTEM, AND THAT NORWAY WILL TAKE PART IN NATO'S LONG TERM PLANNING FOR RENEWAL AND UPDATING NADGE AS PART OF THE ALLIANCE'S INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM.

4. THE MINISTER WILL STATE THAT AT THIS TIME THE GON WANTS TO RESERVE ITS POSITION WITH RESPECT TO THE OPERATIONAL CONCEPT OF AN AEW FORCE IN NORTHERN EUROPE, INDICATING THAT SUCH OPERATION WILL HAVE TO BE CONSISTENT WITH NORWAY'S POLICY OF PRESERVING LOW TENSION IN THE AREA. NORWAY ALSO WILL INSIST ON THE RIGHT OF APPROVAL OF ALL PATROLS IN HER NATIONAL AIR SPACE.

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5. STEPHANSEN SAID THE GON DECISION ON NATO AEW PROGRAM WAS MADE BY THE CABINET ON DEC 2, AND HE REGARDED IT AS A MAJOR STEP TOWARD NORWAY'S PARTICIPATION IN AWACS. HE SAID THE NORWEGIANS RECOGNIZE THAT MOST COUNTRIES WILL NOT BE ABLE TO RENDER A FINAL DECISION ON THE PROGRAM AT THE CURRENT DPC MEETING. HE REQUESTED THAT WE HOLD THE GON POSITION IN CONFIDENCE UNTIL HANSEN MAKES HIS STATEMENT AT THE DPC

MEETING.

6. STEPHANSEN EMPHASIZED THE KEY POLITICAL IMPORTANCE TO THE GON OF THE DEFENSE REVIEW COMMISSIONS (DRC) EVALUATION, BOTH OF THE PROJECT AND ITS RELATION TO NORWAY'S LONG-TERM DEFENSE NEEDS. HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT FELT STONGLY THAT IT COULD NOT AT THIS TIME UNDERTAKE TO PARTICIPATE IN A MILITARY PROJECT OF AWACS' MAGNITUDE AND SIGNIFICANCE WITHOUT THE DRC'S VIEWS. ESTABLISHED BY THE GOVERNMENT IN 1974, THE DRC IS MAKING A COMPREHENSIVE LONG-TERM EVALUATION OF AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON NORWAY'S DEFENSE NEEDS, POLICIES AND PLANS (REF E, F, G). COMPRISED OF A POLITICALLY BALANCED AND BROADLY REPRESENTATIVE GROUP OF RESPECTED NORWEGIANS, THE DRC IS BEING ABLY LED IN ITS DAILY WORK BY ITS SECRETARY ERIK HIMLE. PRIME MINISTER NORDLI CHAIRED THE DRC BEFORE HE BECAME GOVERNMENT HEAD; LABOR PARTY RONALD BYE REPLACED NORDLI.

7. THE CABINET'S DECISION WAS BASED ON THE ASSUMPTIONS THAT NORWAY'S MAJOR FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO AWACS WOULD COME IN 1983, THAT NORWAY WOULD HAVE AN INFLUENCE IN SHAPING THE SYSTEM'S OPERATION AND THAT AWACS WOULD BE A NATO PROJECT, STEPHANSEN SAID. HE INDICATED GOVERNMENT WAS ALSO PROCEEDING UNDER THE ASSUMPTION THAT THERE WOULD BE NO PERMANENT AWACS BASE ON NORWEGIAN TERRITORY, ALTHOUGH IT EXPECTED THAT SOME FUELING AND SERVICING OF AWACS AIRCRAFT MIGHT BE REQUIRED AT NORWEGIAN AIRFIELDS. PERMANENT BASING, HE NOTED, COULD CREATE A PROBLEM WITH NORWAY'S BASE POLICY, WHICH PROVIDES THAT NO FOREIGN TROOPS SHALL BE STATIONED ON NORWEGIAN SOIL SO LONG AS NORWAY IS NOT ATTACKED OR THREATENED BY ATTACK.

8. COMMENT: IN LIGHT OF GON'S CONCERN OVER ITS OWN NATIONAL DEFENSE CAPABILITIES, BUDGETARY PRIORITIES AND SPECIAL SENSITIVITIES, I FEEL THAT CURRENT GON DECISION IS A SIGNIFICANT AND POSITIVE STEP TOWARD PARTICIPATION IN THE AWACS SYSTEM. THE DRC'S EVALUATION WILL BE CONFIDENTIAL

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OF KEY IMPORTANCE. AND IN VIEW OF THE DRC'S SIGNIFICANCE FOR FUTURE NORWEGIAN MILITARY POLICY AND THE POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE DEVELOPING AROUND NEXT FALL'S NATIONAL ELECTIONS, IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT THE GOVERNMENT WANTS THAT BODY'S OPINION AND SUPPORT BEFORE MAKING A FINAL DECISION. THE DRC IS SERIOUSLY AT WORK AND ABLY DIRECTED BY HIMLE, WHO IS FORMER MOD SEC GEN (TOP MOD CIVIL SERVANT AND NUMBER THREE IN AUTHORITY) ON DETAIL TO THE DRC AND WHO HAS VERY POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD NATO AND US DEFENSE CAPABILITIES. WHILE IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO KNOW IN ADVANCE THE DRC'S VIEWS, INFORMED SOURCES HERE EXPECT IT WILL ENDORSE THE MAJOR LINES OF NORWAY'S EXISTING SECURITY POLICY AND CALL FOR INCREASED EFFORT AND EXPENDITURES IN UPGRADING NORWAY'S DEFENSE.

9. THE DRC HAS BEEN EXPOSED TO THE AWACS PROJECT, NOTABLY DURING ITS SUCCESSFUL AND INFORMATIVE ORIENTATION AND FACT-FINDING TOURS OF THE US LAST SPRING. ON MY LAST PERIODIC MEETING WITH HIMLE ON NOV 29 (REF A) I OUTLINED LATEST US VIEWS ON THE NATO AEW PROPOSAL. I WILL CONTINUE TO USE MY EXCELLENT RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM TO INSURE THAT HE REMAINS FULLY AWARE OF OUR INTERESTS IN AWACS AND OF ITS POTENTIAL FOR NORWAY'S DEFENSE.

10. I WOULD LIKE TO CALL PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO STEPHANSEN'S EXPRESSION OF CONCERN THAT THE PERMANENT STATIONING OF AWACS AIRCRAFT AND PERSONNEL IN NORWAY COULD RAISE A PROBLEM WITH NORWAY'S BASE POLICY. OTHER OFFICIALS HAVE EVEN EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT "PERMANENT TRACKS" OVER OR REGULAR OPERATIONS IN NORWAY. THIS CONCERN WAS RAISED IN THE PAST BY MOD UNDER SECRETARY HOLST BEFORE THE LAST NATO DEFENSE MINISTER'S MEETING (REFTEL F). DEFENSE MINISTER HANSEN AND MFA POLITICAL DIRECTOR GENERAL VIBE MENTIONED IT AGAIN LAST NIGHT TO ME DURING DISCUSSION AT SOCIAL GATHERING. SENSITIVITY ON THIS ISSUE IS LIKELY TO INCREASE AS NEXT YEAR'S ELECTION NEARS, AND THE HANDLING OF THIS MATTER MAY WILL HAVE A MAJOR BEARING ON THE DEGREE OF NORWAY'S EVENTUAL PARTICIPATION IN AWACS PROJECT.

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## Message Attributes

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